

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel claim 44, and amend the claims as indicated. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently amended) An isolated expression vector, comprising ~~a recombinant nucleic acid molecule, which comprises~~ the sequence 5'-CACC linked immediately 5' to a start codon of an open reading frame (ORF), wherein the ORF is linked in-frame to a polynucleotide encoding a heterologous peptide, thereby encoding a fusion protein comprising a polypeptide encoded by the ORF and the heterologous peptide.

42. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 41, wherein the ORF encodes a full length polypeptide.

43. (Currently amended) The expression vector of claim 41, ~~and~~ wherein the ORF lacks a stop codon.

44. (Canceled)

45. (Currently amended) The expression vector of claim ~~[[44]]~~ 41, wherein the heterologous peptide comprises an affinity purification tag or an epitope tag.

46. (Currently amended) The expression vector of claim ~~[[44]]~~ 41, wherein the heterologous peptide comprises a polyhistidine tag, a chitin binding domain, glutathione-S-transferase, biotin, or a V5 epitope.

47. (Currently amended) The expression vector of claim ~~[[44]]~~ 41, further comprising a polynucleotide encoding an endopeptidase recognition sequence linked in-frame between the ORF and the polynucleotide encoding the heterologous peptide.

48. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 41, which is a eukaryotic expression vector or a prokaryotic expression vector.

49. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 41, which is suitable for prokaryotic expression and eukaryotic expression.

50. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 41, which is suitable for expression in bacteria cells, fungi, insect cells, yeast cells, plant cells, or mammalian cells.

51. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 41, further comprising a promoter, an enhancer sequence, a selection marker sequence, an origin of replication, an epitope-tag encoding sequence, an affinity purification-tag encoding sequence, or a combination thereof.

52. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 51, wherein the promoter is a constitutive promoter or an inducible promoter.

53. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 52, wherein the constitutive promoter is a T7 promoter, a β -lactamase gene promoter, a bacteriophage λ int promoter; a chloramphenicol acetyl transferase gene promoter, an SV40 promoter, an RSV promoter or a CMV promoter.

54. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 52, wherein the inducible promoter is a trp promoter, a recA promoter, a lacZ promoter, a lacI promoter, an araC promoter, an I-amylase promoter, a metallothionein I gene promoter, a herpesvirus TK promoter, an SV40 early promoter, a yeast gal1 gene promoter, an EF1 promoter, or an ecdysone-responsive promoter.

55. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 51, wherein the selection marker confers resistance to ampicillin, tetracycline, kanamycin, bleomycin, streptomycin, hygromycin, neomycin, or ZeocinTM antibiotic.

56. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 51, wherein the selection marker is a hisD gene sequence or a URA3 sequence.

57. (Previously presented) The expression vector of claim 51, wherein the origin of replication (ori) is an *Escherichia coli* oriC ori, a yeast 2 μ ori, a yeast ARS ori, and sfl ori, or an SV40 ori.

58. (Currently amended) A library of expression vectors, comprising a plurality of expression vectors, wherein each expression vector comprises ~~a recombinant nucleic acid molecule, wherein each recombinant nucleic acid molecule comprises~~ the sequence 5'-CACC linked immediately 5' to a start codon of an open reading frame (ORF), wherein said ORF is linked in-frame to a polynucleotide encoding a heterologous peptide, thereby encoding a fusion protein comprising a polypeptide encoded by the ORF and the heterologous peptide, and wherein an ORF of an expression vector in the plurality is the same or different from open reading frames of other expression vectors in the plurality.

59-66. (Canceled)